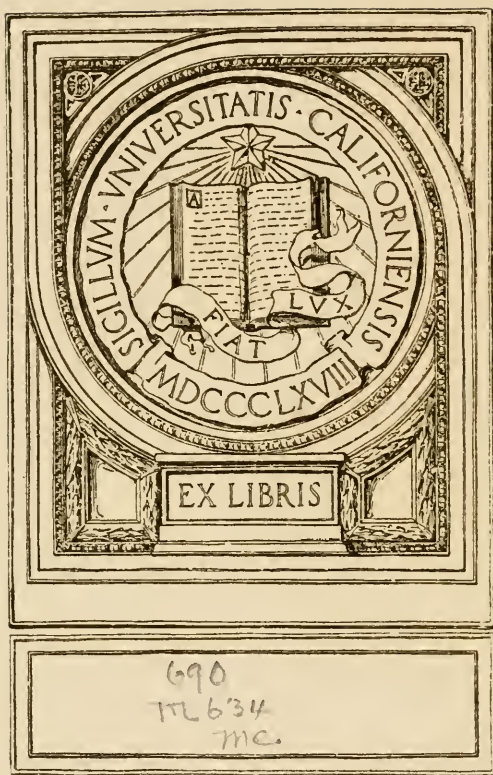


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MEXICO
NATURAL HISTORY
VOCABULARY



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MENDE NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

BY

FREDERICK WILLIAM HUGH MIGEOD

AUTHOR OF "THE MENDE LANGUAGE," 1908

"THE LANGUAGES OF WEST AFRICA," VOL. I. 1911; VOL. II. 1913



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PREFACE

THIS vocabulary, which was compiled at Sekondi on the Gold Coast, consists of a list of the names of as many animals, plants, &c., as the author has been able to observe personally or to obtain a description of.

It does not profess to be a scientific Natural History Guide either to the Mende country or to the locality where it was compiled. It may, however, be found useful to those who, without any zoological or botanical knowledge, wish to know something of the Bush, and it can of course be used in any part of West Africa if the assistance of an intelligent Mende can be obtained.

The vocabulary is divided into sections for convenience of reference, and alphabetical order has been set aside when a grouping seemed likely to be more useful. Most of the objects named have come under the author's personal observation; but amongst the exceptions, which are from description only, must be included, besides nearly all the fish and the varieties of rice, many if not most of the larger animals. To the author's great regret, the neighbourhood of Sekondi is deficient in the larger fauna.

Where "(Sch.)" appears against a name it means that the word appears in Schoen's *Vocabulary of the Mende Language*, 1884, but no confirmation has been forthcoming.

The Mendes' own country is in the colony of Sierra Leone; but they are to be found scattered throughout the whole length of the coast-line of West Africa, working chiefly as labourers or carriers, from as far as Dakar on the north to Benguela on the south. In the Gold Coast at the present time they possibly number about 1500, and their recognition of plants there at least bears witness to the range of those plants over the intervening territory.

The Mendes, not being a seaboard people, have not yet

invented or borrowed names for all the littoral vegetation, though their comparatively close proximity to the sea, and certainly to brackish waterways, renders them tolerably well informed on this subject. With regard, however, to the numerous foreign plants that are to be found round about Sekondi, they can of course do no more than say that they are not in their own country.

As to the nature of the country round Sekondi, in the radius of an afternoon's walk there are roughly four kinds of vegetation to be met with. These are the littoral; the dense forest, now unfortunately fast disappearing; the jungle land which is cropped at intervals of a few years; and tracts of open grass land which no doubt was once fertile and farmed until the invasion of the grass rendered farming it unprofitable. On this grass land one meets here and there clumps of trees or solitary fan-palms, just like on the open country far away to the north beyond the great forest.

The numerous foreign plants that are to be found were no doubt introduced three or more centuries ago by the Portuguese, who have always introduced new plants into any country which they have settled.

It is usually found that forest-dwelling tribes have a good knowledge of natural history, though strange myths may exist in connection with some things. Where these myths occur, the reason probably for their existence is that the objects themselves are somewhat rare, and not readily brought into close observation even by the tribe's most experienced bushman.

The extent of a native's knowledge may seem rather one-sided. For example, some Mendes seem able to name almost every plant that is to be found, and they note minute differences. They can do the same with crawling insects; but, when it comes to butterflies, there is no distinction, one name does for all.

Even if a Mende has not specialised in Bush-lore, every adult male knows the common plants suitable for food, for house-building, and for the manufacture of household utensils. As to the extent of the knowledge possessed by the women, however, the author has no information, though he would judge that the leading women in the various so-called "secret" societies are equally well informed with the men.

PREFACE

v

Of course lapses of memory occur, chiefly in connection with the flora, and this is not surprising considering the hundreds of plants that go to make up the forest. These lapses, as well as dialectic differences, frequently lead to quite heated arguments as to the correct name for something; and the various parties seem usually to fail to convince each other.

As to the identification of plant life, it is always by the leaf. If a Mende is shown a flower and is asked the name of the plant, he will invariably demand the leaf before he will name it. This is not unreasonable when it is recalled that the leaf is with them all the year round, for very few trees are deciduous, while the flower is only with them for a brief period, and the fruit for scarcely longer.

Notes have been added to the descriptions, giving any uses or myths that have come to the author's notice, but he must state that he has not invariably tested their accuracy by practical demonstration.

F. W. H. MIGEOD,
Transport Officer,
Gold Coast Colony.

September 1912.

LINGUISTIC NOTES

THE alphabet adopted is that of the Royal Geographical Society, with the following few additions:—

n = ng, as in "singer," not as in "finger."

o = the ordinary English "o" as in the words—toe, though, sew, so.

o = "aw," as in "saw."

ō = an "o" wavering between "o" and "u," and varying often from one to the other if any addition is made to the word.

Nasalised vowels are marked ~.

All names are given in two forms.

The first is the indefinite and simple form of the noun; the second, in brackets, the definite form.

The second is the form the native invariably uses if he says the name of the thing without any additional words.

The indefinite form is only used when another noun follows it, forming a compound noun; or when an adjective follows it. If the student uses it alone he will not be understood.

In answer to a question as to the name of a thing, it is the definite form that alone is used.

The cause of the change is the addition of a pronominal root, “i,” which modifies the final vowel of the word in a variety of ways depending on its strength or tone. The following are examples :—

oi = "oi," each vowel is almost, but not quite, pronounced separately, and the "i" in some words becomes nearly "e."

oi = "oy" in "boy."

ōi = either long "ī" (i), or almost "wī." For instance,
 " wulōi," small, is pronounced commonly
 " wulī."

äi = usually "e," as in "mesh."

āi = "ai," as in "high," "my."

viii NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

In the definite form the accent is always moved to the end of the word ; as

nika, a cow ; nikéi, the cow.

After the double consonants "kp," "gb," a "w" is commonly heard before "i" and "e," but it is comparatively rare to hear it before the other vowels.

Initial consonants are liable to many phonetic changes, as, "t" into "l"; "ng" into "w" or "y" or "g"; "p" into "w"; "mb" into "w"; "Nd" into "l," &c.

Some words, such as names of small insects usually seen in large numbers, are more commonly met with in the plural. The indefinite plural termination is "nga" added to the indefinite form singular, and the definite termination is "-sia" joined to the definite form singular. The latter is the more commonly used.

There are other plurals, but they do not need to be mentioned here.

Many names of plants are compound words. The following words are commonly found in their composition :—

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| La (lai) or nda (ndai) . | Leaf. | Usually compounded in the name of a herb, or occasionally a shrub. Never with a tree. It emphasises that the leaf is the principal part. |
| Tifa (tife) or lifa (life) . | Shrub, plant. | |
| Ngeyak _o (ngeyakoi) . | Runner, creeper. | |
| Further, | | |
| Ngula (ngului), nguru (ngurui) } | Tree. | |
| Powe (powe) | Flower. | It is not used quite in the English sense of flowers as apart from the plant. |
| Ngu (ngui) | Fruit. | <i>Lit.</i> Head. |
| Ku (kui) | Buttress of a big tree, or wing of a capsule. | |
| K _o lo (k _o le) | Bark. | (Also skin, paper.) |
| Hape (hapei) | Root. | |
| Nja (njei) | Sap. | <i>Lit.</i> Water. |

VOCABULARY

ANIMALS

ANTELOPES

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Binda (binde) . . . | Zebra antelope (<i>Cephalophus doriae</i>). |
| Hagbe-wulō (hagbe-wulōi) | A very small antelope (? <i>Neotragus sp.</i>). |
| Heke (hekei) . . . | Bush cow, almost black, with spiral horns. ? Eland. |
| Kpema (kpeme) . . . | Water-chevrotain (<i>Dorcatherium aquaticum</i>). |
| Ndopa (ndope) . . . | The harnessed antelope (<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>). |
| | Also a general name for antelope. |
| Ngoto (ngotōi or ngoti) | An antelope with twisted horns; brown with white stripes. Applied to the Bongo tragelaph. (<i>Boocercus euryceros</i>). |
| | Also the Water-buck, with long, curved horns (<i>Cobus sp.</i>). |
| Ngulu (nguli) . . . | Hartebeest (<i>Bubalis major</i>). |
| | Some Mendes seem to mix Ngoti and Nguli, as regards Hartebeest. |
| Sandi-lopa (sandi-lope). | An antelope with long horns; bigger than the Harnessed antelope. Three white bands, one at neck, one at loins, and one between the two. (From description.) |
| Tewu (tewui) . . . | Bush-cow; a buffalo (<i>Bubalus sp.</i>). |
| Tewe (tewei) . . . | "Bush-goat." |
| Tōwa-wulō (tōwa-wulōi) | Duiker. In Sierra Leone English Filantomba. (<i>Cephalophus sp.</i>) |

MONKEYS

| | |
|--|--|
| Kwala (kwalai), or Kwara (kwarai), or Kwa (kwai) | { Any monkey, not otherwise specified. |
| Bamō (bamōi) . . . | Baboon. |
| Gbegi (gbegi) . . . | Gorilla (Sch.). |
| Kalō (kalōi) . . . | A large monkey. |
| Konjo (konjo) . . . | A fabulous anthropoid inhabitant of the forest. |
| | Query a gorilla. |
| Logbo (logboi) . . . | A monkey with yellowish back and whitish belly. |
| Ngōrō (ngōrōi) . . . | Ape; chimpanzee (<i>Simia troglodytes</i>). |
| Nguwa (nguwe) . . . | A monkey with the upper and outer parts black, the inner parts red (Sch.). |
| Ndogbo-yusu (ndogbo-yusui) | A fabulous anthropoid inhabitant of the forest with magical powers. |
| Tōwa (tōwe) . . . | Big black monkey with long tail. |

CATS

| | |
|--|--|
| Gone (gonei) . . . | The common domestic cat. |
| Lōlō (lōlōi) . . . | Ditto. |
| Manyale (manyalei) . | Ditto. |
| Kendawi (kendawi) . | A cat (Sch.). |
| Kōli (kōli) . . . | A leopard. |
| Kōli gole (Kōli gole) . | The white leopard. |
| Kōwulō (kōwulōi), or Kewulō (kewulōi) . | { The Serval cat (<i>Felis serval</i>). |
| Mōni (mōni) . . . | An animal of the cat kind. |
| Njala (njale) . . . | Lion. |
| Nyangbe (nyangbei) . | The golden cat. A big wild cat, very savage. (<i>Felis celidogaster</i> or <i>Felis aurata</i> .) |
| Pogo (pogoi) . . . | A species of wild cat larger than Nyangbe. |

SQUIRRELS

- Bovi (bovi) A brown squirrel.
 Kaikulō (kaikulōi) . . Also called Ngelai. Ground squirrel. Brown with a white stripe along its sides: rough greyish tail. Eats ground nuts.
 Kponde (kpondei) . . A squirrel; said to have a bigger head than Sese.
 Ngela (ngelai) . . . See Kaikulōi.
 Nguahī (nguahī) . . . A squirrel.
 Sese (sesei) A squirrel. (Not to be mixed up with Chiji and Seje, which see.)

Note.—Nguahī, Bovi, Kaikulōi, and Sesei are said to be all nearly alike, but Kpondei is bigger.

RATS, &c.

- Chiji (chiji), or Siji . . A mouse, light grey colour with fluffy tail.
 Foba (fobai) A small brown rat with a black stripe down its spine.
 Volo (vole) A large rat with very dark hair.
 Fōlō-gbete (fōlō-gbetei) A rat, 6 inches long, with white stripes down its sides. Lives in the bush, and may be commonly seen bolting across the path.
 Gowulō (gowulōi) . . A brown rat, 6 inches long, no marks.
 Lende (lendi) Mouse.
 Kiwulō (kiwulōi), or Kuwulō (kuwulōi) "Ground pig." A giant rat that burrows in the ground. Much esteemed for eating.
 Nyina (nyine) Rat. The common house rat.
 Sewulō (sewulōi) . . Ground rat or Octodont (*Thrynomys*). Brown; grows to the size of a small rabbit.
 Tondo (tondoi) Common large house rat.
 Tuli (tuli) A rat of sorts, brown, with long nose and strong odour (? *Bathyergidae*).

BATS

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dava (dave) | Small bat. |
| Ndeve (ndevei) | Small bat. |
| Taja (taje) | Medium sized bat. Inhabits fan-palms. |
| Toka (toke) | Big bat. |

PIC, &c.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Ndonde (ndonde) | Pig. |
| Hele (helei) | Elephant. |
| Nja-hele (nja-helei) . . | Hippopotamus. |
| Mali (mali) | Ditto. |

DOG, &c.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Ngila (ngilei) | Dog. |
| Kōwi (kōwi) | ? Jackal. |
| Subu (subui) | Hyena. |

DOMESTIC ANIMALS

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Nika (nikei) | Cow generally. |
| Nika-hina (nika-hinei) . | Bull. |
| Nika-ha (nika-hei) . . | Cow. |

Note.—Hinei = male, and Hei = female, are added to the names of all animals to express sex.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Toha(n)i (toha(n)isia, } plu.) | Flocks or herds. |
| Mbala (mbalei) | Sheep. |
| Nje (njei) | Goat. |
| Sō (sōi) | Horse. |
| Geloba (gelobai) | Camel; a Fula word. |

UNCLASSIFIED

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Kainya (kainye) | Ant-eater (<i>Manis tricuspis</i>). |
| Kimba (kimbe) | Giant ant-eater (<i>Manis gigantea</i>). |

| | |
|--|---|
| Nuni (nuni) | A water animal, said to eat fish and crabs. Burrows into river bank. Its cry is "Boom-boom-boom." |
| Ndanda-kulō (ndanda- kulōi) | } ? Mongoose. |
| Hagbe (hagbei) | ? Weasel. |
| Pekulō (pekuli) | "Bush cat." An animal the size of a rabbit; dark brown, and mouth set underneath. Climbs oil palm-trees for the nuts, and ? burrows in the ground. |
| Pewe (pewi) | "Bush cat." The palm civet, or two spotted paradoxure (<i>Nandinia</i>). |
| Gbulō (gbuli) | "Tree bear." A hyrax. Calls at night as it climbs a tree, with an increasingly shrill note. Pointed nose; short toes; dark brown; size of a rabbit. It has a gland in the middle of its back covered with white hair, which parts and closes. (<i>Procavia dorsalis</i> .) |
| Piwi (piwi) | Porcupine (<i>Hystrix cristata</i>). |
| Seje (sejei) | Said to be something like a Piwi, but smaller. ? A hedge-hog. |
| Jumbu (jembui) | A small fabulous animal celebrated for its magic medicinal power. Its bones are used for amulets (Sch.). |
| Hūa (hūei) | Any animal. <i>Plural</i> , Hūangesia = animals in general. |

BIRDS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Nwoni (nwoni) | Bird. |
| Te (tei) | Common fowl. |
| Te hina (te hinei) | Cock. |
| Te ha (te hei) | Hen. |
| Te lō (te lōi) | Chicken. |

14 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Lolō (lolōi) | | Duck. |
| Dowi (dowi) | | Duck. |
| Tolotolō (tolotolōi) | | Turkey. |

HAWKS, &C.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|
| Bombo (bomboi) | | A brown eagle, inclining to grey in parts (<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>). |
| Gere (geri) | | A brown hawk. |
| Ndogbo-gere (ndogbo-geri) | | The "bush-geri." Like the Geri, but larger. |
| Nja-gere (nja-geri) | | The "water-geri." Brown fish-hawk. Some say same as Bomboi. |
| Hewe (hewe) | | Same as ? Geri or ? Nja-geri. |
| Kuanja (kuanje) | | Same as Nja-geri, but said to have different claws. |
| Kokogbia (kokogbiei) | | Same as Bomboi. |
| Kowō and Kōwe (kōwei) | | Big black-and-white fish-eagle. (? <i>Gypohierax</i> .) |
| Sekpende (sekpende) | | Large grey hawk. |
| Sekulō (sekuli) | | Small speckled hawk. Catches small birds. A kestrel. |
| Yiba or Jiba (yibe or jibe) | } Vulture. | |

WATER-BIRDS

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|
| Bani (bani) | | White wading bird, smaller than Yonembe. Name doubtful. |
| Bongbotō (bongbotōi) | | Pelican. |
| Hohō (hohōi) | | The blackish cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>). Also, the Pigmy Goose (<i>Nettopus auritus</i>). Size of a big pigeon. Body like a duck's; breast white with thick plumage; back greenish; throat brown; feet webbed and black; beak short, hooked, yellow with black tip. |

- Kakibo (kakiboi) . . . Many-coloured kingfisher. *Lit.*
Bank burrower. (? *Alcedo guentheri*.)
This name is also apparently given
to a greenish bird about the
size of a sparrow, not a water-
bird.
- Kekele (kekele) . . . Snippet. A small greyish wading
bird. The smallest of the
waders.
- Kingi (kingi) . . . Grey wading bird, about a foot in
length, or more. Beak yellow
with black on top.
- Nja-nwoni (nja-nwoni). Water-bird. Applied to cormorants
and any other not specially
distinguished water-bird.
- Nja-koku (nja-kokui) . Grey water-bird, larger than a
pigeon.
- Nyegbe-sōlō (nyegbe- }
sōlōi) } Small greyish-green heron.
- Sanga (sange) . . . Black-and-white kingfisher (? *Ceryle*
marina).
- Sōlō-wa (sōlō-wai) . . The same as Nyegbesōlōi.
- Teve-nwoni (teve-nwoni) Stork, black with white neck. About
four feet in length. (*Dissura*
episcopus.)
- Toni (toni) . . . Plover (*Charadrius*—? *Xiphilop-*
terus albiceps).
- Tutu (tutui) . . . Leaf-walker. Length over a foot.
Brown, and white throat. Beak
 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, bluish, continued as a
horny forehead. Legs long,
with very long toes. (*Phyllo-*
perus africanus.)
- Yōnembe (yōnembe) . Great white heron. The egret.
Length 4 feet, or more. Plumes
obtained from its back. (*Ardea*
alba.)
Also, the smaller reddish-white
egret, which also has plumes
(? *Dichromanassa rufa*).

DOVES, &c.

- Bomō (bomōi) . . . Small dove, some all brown, some with white breast.
- Bomo-kulō (bomo-kulōi) *Lit.* Small-bomōi. Small brown ground-dove.
- Powō (powōi, or powi) . Big brown ring-dove. Usually seen sitting in full view on bare branches, the highest possible. (*Turtur semi-torquatus*.)
- Povovō (povovōi) . . Green pigeon. Always hide themselves in thickest part of trees. Found in interior and in mangroves on coast. (*Vanago calva*.)

BUSH FOWL, &c.

- Fokulō (fokulōi) . . . Quail. Small, brown. (*Synoecus sp.*)
- Hoke (hokei) . . . Guinea fowl (*Agelastes*).
- Kete (keti) . . . Guinea fowl (Sch.).
- Kokolowe (kokolowe) } Like the Sasalōi. Calls at night.
? also kowedowe }
- Kokoye (kokoyei) . . Bush fowl. A francolin. Calls by day. Name derived from its call. Brownish.
- Sasalō (sasalōi) . . . Red legged partridge. Greyish, mottled. Calls at evening and at night. Name derived from its call.

PARROTS

- Fabō (fabōi) . . . Parrot.
- Fawu-gbekpe (fawu-gbekpi) } Grey parrot.
- Gbegbe (gbegbi) . . . Parrot.

Note.—Fawu-gbekpe is a combination of fabo and gbegbe.

HORNBILLS

- Gula (gule) . . . ? Toucan. A reputed two-headed bird from a horny growth on the top of its head. Size of a crow. Blackish with long tail. (*Ceratogymna atrata*.)
- Kpulo (kpuloi) . . . A kind of hornbill (Sch.).
- Kwabuma (kwabume) . White crested hornbill or "Monkey bird" (*Ortholophus leucolophus*).
- Piangbia (piangbie) . The common hornbill. A black bird with white breast and very thin body. Very enlarged beak as with all the hornbills. (*Lophoceros melano-leucus*.)

WEAVER BIRDS (*Ploceidae*)

- Mbaku (mbakui) . . . Weaver bird.
- Ndogbo-baku (ndog-bobakui) A weaver bird which builds its nest on palm trees. Nests hang down to a length of 3 feet. Black with red slashes.
- Konu-baku (konu-bakui) The weaver bird which builds spherical nests on young mangroves overhanging the water, or on oil palm trees. Brown and black. Eggs brownish.
- Ta-baku (ta-bakui) . The blue and green weaver bird. Called also Sele.
- Dea (deai) . . . A weaver bird.
- Ddabō (ndabōi) . . . A greenish bird. Weaves a nest on grass or on a shrub. Nest is a bag which closes with a leaf sewn on, just allowing space for the bird to pass in. Eggs up to five in number. blue mottled with brown.
- Sele (selei) or Jele . . Same as Ta-bakui.

UNCLASSIFIED

- Bondō (bondōi) . . . Smaller than a sparrow. Many-hued green, and sharp projecting beak.
- Bovo-nwoni (bovo-nwoni) } Small yellow bird.
- Bundo-sokele (bundo-sokeli) } Small birds in flocks on farms.
- Diadia (diadie) . . . A small rice-eating bird. Black with brilliant scarlet neck.
- Gbofeō A small bird with a single note call. A legend pertains to it. According to Schoen (Vocab.), supposed to utter the voice of spirits.
- Goma (gome) Black and white crow (*Corvus scapulatus*).
- Goro-nwoni (goro-nwoni) . . . A black bird larger than a sparrow. They are said to live in flocks.
- Gowa (gowai) The "clock bird." Green, red under its wings. Crested. Has a call like a harsh "gaw." See also Njopo-gbulei. (? *Turaco* sp.)
- Jangabina (jangabine). Ostrich.
- Jeme (jemei) A honey sucker. About size of sparrow. Many-hued green. (*Nectariniidae*.)
- Jōnga (jōnge) A kind of long-legged bush fowl.
- Jengbe-kulō (jengbe-kulōi) } Humming-bird.
- Jowi (jowi) See yowi.
- Kegewe (kegewei) . . "Witch-bird." Said to be as big as a parrot. Calls at evening. The fable is that children are changed into it.
- Kōbole (kōbolei) . . . A kind of fowl with very short legs (Sch.).

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kpa-ndeve (kpa-ndeve) or Kpa-deve | } Swallow. |
| Kpopo-manja (kpopo- manje) | |
| | } Wood-pecker (<i>Picidae</i>). |

Note.—In some dialects of Mandingo “manja” or
“mansa” is the word for “king.”

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Kpoyo-nwoni (kpoyo- nwoni) | A yellow bird slightly larger than a sparrow, mottled with darker hues and with dark spots. <i>Lit.</i> the “cowry-bird,” probably on account of the dark patch on the otherwise white cowry shell. |
|-------------------------------|---|

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Kpwi (kpwi) | A purple-brown bird that flies like a dove. |
|---------------------|--|

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mbalō (mbalōi) | A black bird with a yellow band on the back of neck, size of a sparrow. |
|------------------------|---|

Pangba-mbalō (pan-
gba-mbalōi) Another name, but apparently not
well known.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mabweji (mabweji) . . | Another name for Mbalōi. |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|

Note.—There was considerable difficulty to get a generally
approved name for this bird.

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Mbu (mbui) | Owl. |
|--------------------|------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Membō (membōi) or Membui | A tiny bird with red breast and neck. |
|-----------------------------|--|

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Ndōine (ndōine) | A many-hued bird said to say, “Ye mia?” <i>i.e.</i> Who is it? |
|-------------------------|---|

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Ndikpwa-bwa (ndikpwa- bwai) | “Broad-mouthed roller” (<i>Eury- stomus ajer</i>). A brown bird, size small dove, yellow beak, blue underbody. |
|--------------------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Ndulu (nduli) | A brown bird with white breast, size of a grey parrot. Has a mournful cry. Said to kill snakes. |
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| Njopo-gbule (njopo- gbulei). | “Clock-bird.” Green all over and also under its wings. This and Gowai are sometimes mixed. |
|---------------------------------|--|

20 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Sigone A mythical bird up a mountain in Mende country. Very big.
- Sikonde (sikonde) . . . A small bird having a varied plumage and pleasing song (Sch.).
- Sokele (sokeli) . . . Tiny birds. Many always seen together. Query a name applied to any small birds in a flock. See Bundo-sokele.
- Sokele-gulu (sokele-
gulu) } A flock of Sokeli.
- Sokele-manja (sokele-
manje) } A small black and white bird (male), a fly catcher, with a tail nearly a foot long in the breeding season. The female is brown, and is (query) called "sokeli" only. (*Muscicapidae* —*Terpsiphone*.)
- Tindō (tindōi) . . . A small bird with a slate-coloured head, from description.
- Tōlō-kenge (tolo-kenge) Water-wag-tail (*Motacillidae*).
- Yegbe (yegbei) . . . "Night-jar." Bird size of a dove, mottled brown. Sits on the ground at dusk, and does not move till almost trodden on. See Yowi. (*Caprimulgus* sp.)
- Yoru (yorui) A small pretty bird, pointed beak, many-coloured.
- Yovō (yovōi) "Pepper bird." Like a sparrow in appearance. Eats peppers (capsicums). (? *Pycnonotus barbatus*.)
- Yowi (yowi), also jowi . Same as Yegbe.

REPTILES, &c.

SNAKES

- Kali (kali) Snake generally.
- Fowa-ngeyakoma (fowa-ngeyakome) A small snake with big head. Head bright green. Upper part body green with bluish-black bars. Rest of body an uncertain green. Very long tail. (*Thelotornis kirtlandi*.)
- Gooko (gookoi) . . . Small fat snake, grey with brownish bars. Bite may kill in twenty-four hours. (*Dipsosaurus pulchellus*.)
- Guru (guru) or Gōrō (gōrō) Black cobra, grows up to 6 feet. Has whitish-red discoloration on throat. Very deadly. (*Naja nigricollis* and *melanoleuca*.)
- Kenji-guli (kenji-guli) . Tree cobra. Poisonous. Grows up to 6 feet. Green, and towards tail green and brown. So called from its likeness to "kenji," the seed cone of the *Rajia vinifera*. (*Dendraspis viridis*.)
- Kpiti-bōmbō (kpiti-bōmbō) or kpiti-hū-bōmbōi Lit. "Grass-bōmbōi." Some greenish on back, some blackish-blue. Grows up to 3 feet. Under this name are classed *Lycophidium fasciatum*, *Boodon lineatus*, and *Simorephalus poensis*.
- Kuli (kuli) A greyish-green mottled snake up to 6 feet. (*Dipsosaurus blandinyi*.)
- Maha-gali (maha-gali) . Lit. "King-snake." Said to grow 3 feet, thick as a man's arm. Harmless. Eats ants. Like

- a puff-adder in appearance.
(From description.)
- Ndawundo-gali (nda-wundo-gali) Small bluish-green snake, barks like a little frog. (*Chlorophis heterolepidotus*.) Also query any green snake.
- Ndovo-pole (ndovo-pole) *Lit.* Toad-swallower. A thickish snake up to 2 feet. Slightly poisonous. Brownish - grey with black marks. (*Causus rhombeatus*.)
- Njopo-guli (njopo-guli) A thin faintly-striped brownish snake up to 3 feet. Identified as *Boodon lineatus* and *Chlorophis irregularis*. *Lit.* "Fallow-farm Kuli."
- Ndili (ndili) Python or other constrictors.
- Ngu-vōlō (ngu-vōlōi) . A snake of dark colour, like Gurui. Poisonous. (From description.)
- Nja-wuru (nja-wurui) . *Lit.* Water-Gurui. Water-cobra, like Gurui.
- Tupu (tupui) Puff-adder. Applied to both *Bitis nasicornis* and *Bitis gabonica*.

LIZARDS, &C.

- Kogo-nje (kogo-njei) . *Lit.* Mother of ants. The slow-worm. Said to have a head at each end, owing probably to both ends being the same shape.
- Kolō (koli) A lizard, female of Njake, greenish.
- Kpeni (kpeni) Flat-bodied, striped and speckled lizard. Natives always kill them, saying they are poisonous. (? *Lygosoma fernandi*.)
- Ndamba (ndambe) . . Crocodile of any species.
- Ndokulō (ndokuli, or ndokui) Chameleon. Eggs white. (*Chameleon sp.*.)
- Njaka (njake) Red-headed lizard. Njake is said to be the male and Koli the female. (*Agama colonorum*.)

Pama (pame) . . . Monitor, commonly called iguana
(*Varanus niloticus*).

FROGS, &c.

Banasowe (banasowe) . A flesh-coloured climbing frog
(*Hyla arborea*).

Gbasonde (gbasonde) . Green tree frog; also grey.

Jibele (jibele) . . . Bull-frog.

Kpegbe (kpegbi) . . . Frog.

Kputu (kputui) . . . Tadpole.

Ndovō (ndovōi) . . . Toad.

TORTOISE, &c.

Haku (hakui) . . . Tortoise. Also sometimes applied
to turtle.

Nja-vele (Nja-vele) . Turtle.

Ngaku (ngakui) . . . Crab.

Jekende (Jekende) . . A small red crab.

Nwoni (nwoni) . . . Oyster. Nwoni-gei = oyster shell.

Kemi (kemi) . . . A bivalve (Sch.).

FISH

Bōtō (bōtōi) Something like Kondoi. Calls with
a loud click.

Buani (buani) In fresh water. Comes out to eat
grass. ? Manatee.

Folema (foleme) . . . Fresh water. Very small. Swim
in shoals.

Gbele (gbele), or Bugi-
buwi A sea-fish, about two feet, with
streamers from its mouth. Lies
square on its stomach. Big
mouth. (Fantis call it Kokote.)

Gbende (gbendei) . . A very small fish in swamps.

Hala (hale) Fresh and salt water. An eel-
shaped fish, with big head.

Jara (jare) A fish (Sch.).

Jengbi (jengbi) . . . Garfish (*Scombresoridae*).

Jōwa (jōwe) An eel-shaped fish, supposed to
control the quantity of water
in certain places, and hence is
worshipped (Sch.).

24 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Kata (katei) A kind of very large cat-fish.
- Kōle-nye (Kōle-nyei) . Fresh water. A very big scaly fish, called in Sierra Leone English "kute."
- Kōlo-nye (kōlo-nyei) . An eel-shaped fish with jointed shell (Sch.).
- Kondō (kondōi) . . . Small fish in mangrove swamps. Jumps and climbs trees. Swims with its head out of water. (*Periophthalmus*.)
- Kpelo (kpeloi) A biggish fish with numerous spines round its neck. About a foot and half long.
- Kpikpi (kpikpi) . . . Electric fish; 2½ feet long.
- Nye (nyei) Fish generally.
- La-nye (La-nyei), or }
Da-nyei } Fresh water; 4 feet long.
- Makondo (makonde) . A fish like Hale; 9 inches long.
- Mbōla (mbōle) . . . Big sea-fish; 3 feet long; very big head.
- Ndegbe (ndegbei) . . A large cat-fish. Like Hale; 3 feet long.
- Ngoka (ngoke) . . . Fresh water. A fish called in Sierra Leone English "Mangrove page." Bigger than Gbende.
- Pele (pelei) Fresh water. A fish, white in colour; 6 inches long.
- Pepe (pepi) A shrimp.
- Pōli (pōli) Herrings, or other fish which are usually smoked and dried. In Sierra Leone English "Bonge."
- Tombo (tomboi) . . . Mullet (Sch.).
- Tumu (tumui) . . . Shark.
- Tupu-nye (tupu-nyei) . A fish resembling Tupui, the puff-adder. About a foot and a half long.
- Vulu (vului) A fish (Sch.).

INSECTS

ANTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Fu-hani (fu-hani, or fu-hai) | <i>Lit.</i> Living thing. Insect generally. Ants. |
| Gbali (gbali) | Big black ant, winged. Comes to the lamp at night. |
| Falō (falesia, <i>pl.</i>) . . | Red ant. Makes its nest in leaves folded. Very painful sting. <i>See</i> Ndowo. |
| Fuli (fuli) | Brown ant, winged. Comes out after rain and drops its wings. |
| Gĩlĩ (gĩlisia, <i>pl.</i>) . . . | White ants, <i>i.e.</i> termites. |
| Gowo-pupu (gowo-pupuisia) | Big ants, head and tail black, middle section brown. |
| Kōwō (kōwōisia) . . . | Driving ants, blackish (<i>Anomma</i>). |
| Kpaina (kpaine) . . . | The big black stinking ant (<i>Paltothyreus pestilentius</i>). |
| Ndowo (dongesia) . . . | Red ants that build a house of leaves joined together. They sting. Some Mendes confuse them with Falesia, and say Falesia are black and Dongesia red; others the reverse. |
| Mbōmbōlō (mbōmbōli) . | A black ant that stinks. |
| Ndo-gowō (ndo-gowōisia) | Reddish travelling ants. (Ndo = underground.) |
| Ngelemahũisia | Small black travelling ants. |
| Pupu (pupuisia) | Very small ants, red. Also applied generally to any small ants. |

Note.—Ants are usually referred to in the plural number.
Definite plural suffix is “-sia.”

FLIES, WASPS, &C.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ndi (ndingesia) | Flies generally. The house fly. |
| Fo (foi) | A big black biting fly. The “Mangrove-fly” and “Tsetse.” |
| Mamu-vō (mamu-voi) . . | “Mangrove-fly.” |

26 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Ndivo-vo (ndivo-voi) . . . A fly that bores a hole in a tree.
It bites.
- Kalo (kaloi) . . . Large green or black flies. They
may also be called Fōi.
- Puje-vofo (puje-vofoi) . . . An insect that flying into the eye
causes a smarting pain like
that of pepper (puje).
- Pundi (pundisia) . . . Mosquitoes.
- Ndogbo-li (ndogbo-li) . . . *Lit.* Bush-fly. A very big fly, like
a house fly.
- Gumō (gumōisia) . . . Sandflies (*Chironomidae*).
- Dumbeka (dumbeke) . . . Firefly (*Diaphanesleucopyga*—*Mala-*
codermidae—*Lampyridae*).
- Kpakpadia (kpakpadie) . . . Dragon-fly.
- Mbele-lukpe (mbele-
lukpei), or mbe-
lukpei . . . A mosquito-like fly with long legs.
Named from its swinging
motion.
- Nja-nenye (nja-nenye) . . . A fly that buzzes in circles on the
water.
- Komi (Komisia) . . . Bees.
- Bōbōni (bōbōni) . . . A very small bee that makes a
hanging tunnel-entrance to its
house.
- Dagba (dagbe) . . . A very small bee (*Melipona*,
? *Trigona*).
- Higbo (higboi) . . . A very large black wasp. Makes a
white hanging comb, often sus-
pended from a nail. (*Sphegidue*
—*Eumenes* or *Pelopaeus*.)
- Bongbo (bongboi) . . . A mason wasp. Builds a mud-
house on a wall. Brownish
with a yellow stripe on the
side of the abdomen.
- Domba (dombe) . . . A wasp that burrows in the ground.
- Pewe (pewei) . . . A mason wasp.
- Jimo (jimoī) . . . A small yellow wasp.
- Mōiwulo (mōiwuloisia) . . . Very small winged insects that
build a honey-combed house
on the Seme tree. An excre-
scence is formed, which is full
of cells.

SPIDERS

- Silō (silōi) Spider (*Heteropoda venatoria*—*Araneae*); also spiders generally.
 Ka-silō (ka-silōi) . . Spider. Often so named in stories.
 Giji-lō (giji-lōi) . . . Big yellow spider (*Nephila* sp.—*Araneae*).
 Jenji-lō (jenji-lōi) . . Big brown spider with a bad sting.
 Jokondi (jokondi) . . Tarantula (*Lycosa*—*Araneae*).

CRICKETS, &c.

- Jujume (jujume) . . A blackish cricket, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, with big thighs to hind legs.
 Kimbō (kimbōi) . . A big cricket, 3 inches long. It is eaten roasted. Perhaps male sex only.
 Maneku (manekui) . . A large cricket, said to be the female of Kimbōi.
 Kine-kine (kine-kine) . An ugly sort of insect, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, grey, with strong, jointed antennae.
 Kondō (kondōi) . . . Locust. Destructive kind.
 Kongō-wetu (kongō-wetui) . Grey striped locust, said not to be hurtful.
 Ndānyē (ndānyē) . . A flying insect, body 1 inch long, dark brown, ugly appearance. Big feet. Active. It is said that if it bites a man's toe in the grass, and the bite itches, rain will come.
 Papapōli (papapōli) . . Grasshopper, or locust. All colours of rainbow in a close pattern.
 Petu (petui) Grasshopper, or cricket, or locust.

BEETLES

- Bewe (bewe) A bright-coloured beetle that burrows underground.
 Bowi-vofō (bowi-vofōi) . A beetle that rolls a ball of dung.

28 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Gondo-v_of_o (gondo-v_o-foi) . A horned beetle in the "pambe" palm. Also a giant beetle, black, with three horns.
- Kpendi-b_o (kpendi-b_o) . A giant beetle, up to 5 inches long, black with white back. Not horned.
- Kine-kine (kine-kine) . A beetle, 1 inch long, green and brown striped horizontally. Antennae jointed, longer than its head. Big head and powerful jaws. Said to bore into trees to lay its eggs. Big feet. Makes a chirruping. Compare Kine-kine under Crickets.
- Nd_o-v_of_o (nd_o-v_ofoi) . A beetle, 1½ inch long. Long proboscis. Black and brown. Developed from "Mbawe." Cooked and eaten.
- Yao-v_of_o (yao-v_ofoi) . A small scarlet insect, usually seen running about on the ground in large numbers together, often under a cotton tree (bombax).

GRUBS, MAGGOTS

- Bōji-hũ-guli (bōji-hũ-guli) . White maggot, 3 inches long, found in rotten wood. Said to turn into "Kondo-wundoi."
- Fuvulu (fuvului) . . . Wood-borer. A very small insect.
- Hokpo - gb_oli (hokpo-gb_oli) . A very big grey caterpillar with a horn. Said to eat a man's navel when he is asleep, hence its name (hokpo = navel; gb_oli = suck, drink). It is powerful enough to give a spring sideways, doubling itself for the purpose.
- Kpekpeli (kpekpeli) . Caterpillar.
- Mbawe (mbawe) . . . Big white grub in oil palms. Eaten with rice. Said to develop into "Nd_ov_ofoi."

- Meme-tumbu (meme-tumbui) . . . A white grub, 3 inches long, found in rotten wood.
- Pupunye (pupunyei) . . . A grey insect with big body and two horns on its head. Walks backwards. Size about half-inch long. Burrows in the ground.
- Also, the grub in a sheath, half-inch long, that hangs on the walls of a house.
- Sowa (sowai) A caterpillar that makes a portable house by gluing sticks and leaves together. Black with yellowish bars.

COCKROACHES

- Kpekpe (kpekpei) . . . Cockroach.
- Nja-gbəkpe (nja-gbəkpei) } "Water-cockroach."
- Ngoro (ngoroi) . . . A kind of ? cockroach, small, green, hairy.

TICKS, LEECHES, &c.

- Jike (jike) Jigger. An insect that burrows into a person's feet.
- Kpavi (kpavi) . . . Flea or dog-louse.
- Kpengbe-yauwi (kpengbe-yauwi) } A bed-bug of sorts.
- Mumō-li (mumō-li) . . Lice that infest domestic fowls.
- Nyala (nyalai), or nya (nyai) } Tick.
- Ngavi (ngavi) . . . Louse.
- Tōlō (tōlōi) Leech.

SNAILS

- Kōlō (kōlōi, kōli) . . Snail.
- Konde (konde) . . . Snail.
- Fafa-gonde (fafa-gonde) Intermediate sized snail.

30 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Gbowo-gonde (gbowo-gonde) . . . Giant snail. A great delicacy as an article of food.
 Jomoko (jomokoi) . . . A small snail (Sch.).

MOTHS, BUTTERFLIES

- Kogonde (kogonde) . . . Any butterfly.
 Fufu (fufui or fufuihũ) . . . Any moth.
 Kunde (kundi) . . . A dark greyish-brown moth 2 inches long. Thick antennae.
 Konde-wonde (konde-wondi) } A white moth 1 inch long.
 Kundō-wundi (kundō-wundi) } A big ? fly, many-coloured body, black wings with yellow marks.
 Kondo-wundō (kondo-wundōi) } A big metallic-coloured butterfly.

Note.—Above three names may all possibly be the same, and there may be something special in an insect's appearance that causes this name to be given to insects so greatly different; or possibly they may be misnamed.

CICADAS

- Senene (senene) . . . Cicada (*Pyena limbata*).
 Kpindi-lōwi (kpindi-lōwi) } ? Cicada.

CENTIPEDES, &c.

- Ndondō (ndondōi) . . . Millipede. Grows to about 6 inches long. Harmless. (*Julus sp.*—*Chilognatha*).
 Ndondo-lingesia . . . The young of the above. They may be met in the road crowded together in dozens.
 Konu-ngu (konu-ngui) . . . Centipede. Stings. (*Synynatha*).
 Kalondo (kalondoi) . . . A flat centipede, different from the stinging one. Shorter and broader. (*Synynatha*).

UNCLASSIFIED

- Kekema (kekeme) . . . Scorpion, both the large black one which grows up to 6 inches long (*Pandinus imperator*), and the smaller species.
- Leleme (leleme) . . . The green mantis.
- Yenge-yange (yenge-yange) } The big stick insect (*Phasmidae*).
- Gbōli (gbōli) . . . Any worm. Includes earth-worms and body-worms as Guinea-worm (*Filaria medinensis*). Guinea-worm was until quite recently unknown in Mende country. Hence no distinctive name.
- Dañiñye (dañiñye) . . . A crawling insect said to burrow horizontally below ground, and to bite.
- Hita (hite) Some kind of insects resembling white ants. They are eaten.
- Sini (sini) A small insect that causes a skin disease in appearance like craw-craw.
- Dumbeka (dumbeke) . . . A small insect like a lady-bird, with transparent wing cases overspreading the whole body. Same name as that given to the firefly.

TREES

- Baga (bagai) or Baga-wului . . . A medium-sized tree. Leaf heart-shaped, 12 × 9 inches, brittle. Sticks of this tree are used to spin cotton on. Flowers in cymes.
- Bagyi (bagyi) A big tree, used to make mortars for pounding grain. Dyes cloth reddish-yellow.

32 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Belegafe (belegafe) . . . A tree (Monrovia). Smooth oval leaf 5×3 inches, with regular strong veins.
- Beli-mbambe (beli-mbambe) . . . A tree (Kumasi). Leaf $6 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth, soft, ribs alternate and even. Leaves opposite.
- Bobo (boboi) A rubber tree. Leaves $6 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, pointed oval, alternate. (*Funtumia elastica*—*Apocynaceae*.)
- Bofi (bofi) A tree. Leaves alternate, $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth, thin. Flower axillary, small, yellow, one lobe developed. Fruit a capsule $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch diameter, orange colour. Splits in three, a seed in each section. It is eaten. Branch stripped and dried is used as a torch. (? *Dodonaea viscosa*—*Sapinularaceae*.)
- Bōmbi (bōmbi) . . . A tree. Leaves $7 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, smooth, hard, opposite. Fruit a soft leathery pod, $5 \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{16}$ inches.
- Bonga (bongai) . . . A tree used for the forked posts for supporting the veranda of a bush house.
- Bondi (bondi) . . . A tree.
- Buna (bune) A forest tree with leaves 12×12 inches, heart-shaped, partly lobed and cleft. Fruit a ? follicle, scarlet, edible, 6 inches diameter, fleshy, with about six white seeds in central hollow.
- Buwi (buwi) A tree (Monrovia).
- Boni (boni) A sap tree with large fleshy leaves. The juice is said to cure toothache.
- B_o-wulu (b_o-wulni) . . The "baobab" tree. Leaf palmately parted, five leaflets.

- Easily recognised by enormous trunk and thick branches. Fruit which hangs singly by long strings is eaten. Deciduous. An open country tree. (*Adansonia digitata*.)
- Dena (dene) ? A tree. See also under water-plants.
- Dewe (dewei) or Ndewe A tree. Leaves far apart, 3×3 inches, tender, jagged edge. Thorns on trunk.
- Dewe-hina (dewe-hinei) *Lit.* Male Dewe. A tree or shrub. (Monrovia.) Five parted leaf, 6×6 inches.
- Die (dii) A tree yielding sweet gum (Sch.).
- Dumbele (dumbele) . . Lime and orange. See Saroi.
- Dumbele-nyenye (dumbele-nyenye) Lime tree. Limes rubbed on are said to cure craw-craw, a skin eruption.
- Fa (fai) A tree (Kumasi). Compound opposite leaves. Leaflets opposite, $1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch, tender.
- Fakali (fakali) . . . A sap tree. The "Pawpaw." Male and female. Very large palmate leaves very deeply cleft. Fruit size of a melon, golden colour when ripe. (*Carica papaya*.) Fruit has great digestive properties, and the leaves are reputed to make tough meat tender if packed in them for a time.
- Nyine-fakali (nyine-fakali) The pawpaw with pear-shaped fruit. So called from a woman's breasts.
- Feve (fevei) A big tree (Monrovia). Leaf $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, stiff, thin.
- Fofōwi (fofōwi) . . . A tree (Kumasi). Leaf 18×14 inches, strongly ribbed, stiff, somewhat rough. Seven leaves sprout from crest of leaf-stalk.

- Fruit yellow, edible, big as a man's fist. Looks like bread-fruit.
- Fole (fole) A sort of ?ash tree.
- Fure (fure) A tree.
- Fulō (fuli) A big forest tree, exudes gum (ndengbe). Leaf lob-sided, very tender, 4×3 inches or more.
- Gbende (gbende) A big tree (Monrovia). Follicle 6×3 inches, seeds red with black tip, not eaten.
- Gbōji (gbōji) Any plum tree; hog-plum.
- Gbongbato (gbongbatoi) . . Sour orange tree.
- Gboyē (gboyei) A big tree. Leaves 9×3 inches, alternate.
- Gomba (gombe) Tree used for forked posts in house building.
- Gomo (gomoi) A rubber tree.
- Gonwo (gonwe) or
Gonwo-wai. (*Lit.*
Big-gonwo) A rubber ficus. Starts as a creeper on a palm, and as it grows crushes and kills it, standing afterwards as a tree. Leaf $8 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (? *Urticaceae*). Applied also to the banyan tree (Gonwe). It seems to be applied also to various *Ficus* trees.
- Guava (guave) Guava. Leaf lance-shaped, $4 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, stiff, ribs strong on back, does not lie flat. Alternate. Flower white, scented. Fruit yellow, size of small apple. Grows wild round Sekondi. (*Psidium Guajara*—*Myrtaceae*).
- Hendō (hendōi) A very hard redwood tree (*Lophira procera*). Called by Fantis "Kaku."
- Hege-gulu (hege-gului) . . . *Lit.* Soap tree. Not a distinctive name, but applied to several

- trees, some portion of which may be utilised to make soap.
- Hewe (hewe) A tree with scented bark. Leaves alternate, smooth, $5 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Fruit pounded is eaten as medicine "for the belly."
- Hōle (hōle) A tree with juice used for catching birds.
- Jiawa (jiawai) A rubber tree. Like Boboi in appearance. (*Funtumia africana* —*Apocynaceae*.)
- Jōkō (jōkōi) A tree with small feathery leaves which are used to heal wounds.
- Kafa (kafe) A tree (Conakry). Leaf oval, stiff, 3 inches. Red capsule with five seeds each, black, orange and yellow. The leaves infused are said to cure toothache.
- Kafa-wui Kafa-fruit.
- Kafi (kafi) A tree. Leaves stiff, obovate, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, opposite. Berries reddish-yellow, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, in clusters with a seed inside each. The seed has a second covering. They are eaten and taste like a grape.
- Kamama (kamame or Kamami) or Kagami or Kami The "sandpaper" tree. Leaves alternate, but some at head opposite. Leaf 6×4 inches, very rough, oval, but some on same tree have a single deep cleft on each side. Used for polishing wood. Women are said on some occasions to scrape their breasts with them until they bleed.
- Kawo - wulu (Kawo-wului) A tree for making trumpets which are called "kao-buli."

36 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Kendu (kendui) . . . A tree bearing a hard-shelled fruit like the cocoa-nut (Sch.).
- Kinjōrō (kinjōrōi) . . . A tree. Children make a plaything of the ? hard fruit ? kernel, which is strung on to a string.
- Koba (kobe) A tree. Leaves $6 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, stiff, smooth in front, rough at back, alternate. Fruit red, peachy, $2 \times 2 \times 1$ inches, splits, hollow, black seeds. Leaves infused, put on a boil, draw it out.
- Koba-ha (Koba-hei) . . . *Lit.* Female-kobe. Leaf 11×7 inches, heart-shaped.
- Kobo (koboī) The gum-copal tree, and the gum itself. (? *Copaifera dinklagei*—*Leguminosae*.)
- Kōjaga (kōjagei) or Nguli (nguli) . . . A big tree with very soft wood, white. It is used for making boxes for specie. Leaf palmate, oval, 7×7 inches over all. (? *Triplochiton Johnsonii*.) Called by Fantis "waw-waw."
- Kōwelege (kōwelege) . . . A tree (Kumasi and Monrovia). White juice comes out of stem. Leaves $10 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, whorled in fours, tender. (? *Antiaris toxicaria* — *Urticaceae*.)
- Kpakpa (kpakpei) . . . A tree that folds its leaves at night. Leaf compound, abruptly pinnate, leaflets irregular oval, about $2 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Compound flower like half a ball of fluff almost. Tree exudes resin largely when bored into by insects. The resin does not harden. "Shade" tree or "rain" tree.
- Kpatō (kpatōi) A tree near streams. Leaves oval, pointed, smooth, 3×2 inches. Some opposite, others irregu-

- larly. Flower raceme, yellow, irregular, flattened sides, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter.
- Kpende (kpende) . . . A tree near streams. Leaves opposite, $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, one side larger than other, stiff. Fruit like a walnut almost in appearance.
- Komi-gule (komi-gule) A tree. Leaf $2 \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches, oval, pointed. Young leaves crushed loosen nasal mucus and clear head.
- Kondu (kondui) . . . A tree with attractive but worthless fruits (Sch.).
- Kundi (kundi) . . . A tree. Opposite leaves, $7 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, smooth on front. Fruit has big seeds which are crushed and boiled and used to kill lice on the head; also jiggers. Also applied to the Cashew nut tree.
- Kuwi (kuwi) A tree. Leaves 6×3 inches, alternate, pointed oval, smooth and tender. This tree and Seme are often not cut down when they clear farms. They are used for marks for each person's allotment.
- Kuwō (Kuwōi) . . . A tree (Kumasi). Leaves opposite, smooth and tender, up to 8 inches long. Young leaves $2 \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches are red.
- Kwuye See Tundui.
- Lelema-bule (lelema-bule) A tree with leaves growing in a tuft from the trunk. Leaf is like a stiff oil-palm leaf. (? *Dracaena* sp.—*Liliaceae*.)
- Luwa - wulu (luwa-wului) *Lit.* Ink-tree, an invented name. Leaf compound, palmate, 5 or more leaflets, each 8×3 inches, oblanceolate. Leaf stalks op-

- posite. Mohammedans make ink of its leaves.
- Mambō (mambōi) . . . A tree. Leaves mostly opposite, smooth, stiff, perfect oval, $2 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Leaves grow close to stalk. Soft nuts $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter, with velvety shell, edible.
- Moigbama (moigbame). A tree. Leaf $6 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, stiff.
- Mbele (mbele) . . . A big tree, the "sasswood." Compound leaf, the leaflets very small. (*Erythrophloeum guineense*—*Leguminosae*.)
- Mbeli (mbeli) . . . A big forest tree with red oily juice under bark, which dries out like sealing-wax. Leaf 6×3 inches, opposite, smooth, thin. (? *Khaya senegalensis*—*Meliaceae*.)
- Mbili (mbili) . . . A big forest tree with sweet-scented bark. Leaf 5×1 inches, smooth. (? *Boswellia kleinii* or *Santiriopsis kleinii*—.)
- Mbundo (mbundoi) . . The camwood tree. Leaves alternate, 4×2 inches, polished surface. Small white flowers, one lobe developed, yellow at base of petals. Used to dye Nduvu fibre red. (*Baphia nitida*—*Leguminosae*.)
- Mbundō (mbundōi) . . A tree used for making mortars for pounding grain.
- Ndaha (ndahei) . . . A fig tree. Leaves slightly rougher than "Kobe," $6\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches, alternate. Fruit $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, hangs close to branch, red. The inner bark is eaten as an astringent for thirst, and the Hausas mix it with kola-nut to chew.
- Ndanda (ndande) . . A very hard wood tree. Trunk as

if a collection of vines. Fibrous bark with unpleasant smell. Bark used as a purge to kill worms. Leaves, which shut at night, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, narrow, fringed. Long thorns on the young shoots.

- Ndawa (ndawai) A species of plum tree (Sch.).
- N dog bo - d u m b e l e *Lit.* Bush-lime. In appearance like an ordinary lime tree, but no scent to the leaves. Flower like a white camelia. Eleven petals, scented.
- Ndokn - wulu (ndoku-wului) A tree used for chew-stick (for cleaning the teeth in the morning). Leaves $3 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, smooth, oval, alternate. Axillary buds. Flowers have a strong odour.
- Ndovo-te (ndovo-tei) . A tree with stiff leaf arrangement.
- Ngegele-tumbe (ngegele-tumbi) A tree. Three whorled leaves, 5×2 inches, oval, smooth, stiff. Fruit a five-valved capsule, pink. Leaf is eaten with "crinere" (Monrovia).
- Ngomba (ngombe) . . A tree. A medicine for coughs is made of it.
- Ngōrō-lōlō (ngōrō-lōlōi) A tree like the Kola (Sch.)
- Ngōvō (ngōvōi) . . . A big sap-wood tree. "Umbrella tree." It grows up first in forest clearings. Leaves, about a dozen crown the leaf stalk, 12×2 inches. (*Musanga Smithii*—.)
- Nguli (nguli) See Kojaga.
- Nguwō (nguwe) . . . Silk cotton tree irrespective of species (*Bombar Buonopozense* and *brevicuspis*, also *Eriodendron anfractuosum* — *Malvaceae*).

40 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

- Titi The red cup-like flower of the Bombax.
- Yi-ndi The pollen-bearing stamens of Titi.
- Nikili (nikili). A tree (Kumasi). Leaves alternate, 3×1 inches, smooth, ribs uneven. Leaves sprout axillary. Fruit yellow, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter, hard, big seed inside.
- Njawa (njawe) A tree with berries pigeons eat. Berries have a slightly acrid smell. Query, only grows in grass country.
- Njenyani (njenyani) . *Lit.* Spoil-water. A tree with bitter medicinal bark (Sch.).
- Njekō (njekōi) A tree or shrub with climbing branches. Leaf heart-shaped, $8 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Berries split either into two or three, hang from own stalk in clusters, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter. Two antennae $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long project from top of berry. Leaves infused make a purge. Berries, very acid, eaten to cure diarrhœa. Berries pounded in hot water make a black for painting basins, &c. Leaf is put on to cuts and wounds. In Sierra Leone English called "Christmas." (*Alchornea cordifolia* or *cordata* — *Euphorbiaceae*.)
- Nyāle (nyāle). A tree (Monrovia). Leaf 8×3 inches, smooth.
- Nyama-wa (nyama-wai) A small tree. Leaf 2 inches, oval, smooth. Scarlet pods in bunches, seeds inside. Like an acacia.
- N w o n i - w u l ō - j a k ō (nwoni-wulō-jakōi) A tree. Leaf $1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch, smooth, alternate. It is eaten on rice.

- Root used for a purge. (Nwoni = bird; wulō = small.)
- Poma - magbe (poma-magbe) A tree (Kumasi). Leaves opposite, $6 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, rough. They sprout at joints of the stem.
- Po-ngulu (po-ngului, or pongu'i) A tree with spatulate leaves, up to a yard in length, opposite. Stem is thorny.
- Pu-bondo (pu-bondoi) . . A foreign tree or shrub. Leaf pointed, ovate, up to 6 inches long. Flower like wood-anemone. Prickly capsule containing seeds used to make an orange dye which is called Annatto. (*Bixa orellana*—*Bixaceae*). See Mbundo. *Lit.* European Mbundo.
- Saba-wulu (saba-wului or saba-wui) A big tree. Leaf 6×2 inches, tender, young leaves mauvered. Red flowers.
- Saro (saroī) Orange tree and fruit. (*Citrus aurantium*—*Rutaceae*.)
- Sema (seme) A big tree. Drums and mortars for pounding grain are made of it. Query the Odum (*Chlorophora excelsa*) of the Fantis. See note on Kuwi.
- Solikipō (solikipōi) . . . A tall umbrella tree in the forest. Leaves 6×4 inches, rough, strongly veined, ovate, opposite; branch axillary. Ornamental sticks are made of it. The tree is made use of in some way by the Sowisia of the female society called Bundu.
- Su-wulu (su-wului) . . . A soft tree, straight stem, branches crowning the top. They make a drum called "kele" of it.
- Tijō (tijōi) A tree. Leaf 7×2 inches, smooth. There are two species, called

- male and female. The male is called Kongolo-lijōi.
- Tingō (tingi) Mangrove.
- Tolō (toli) "Kola" tree. Leaf $4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, oval, pointed. Fruit green, $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, rough. The kola that is eaten is the seed, which, four in number, lie in a row inside. (*Cola acuminata* — *Sterculiaceae*.)
- Tomba (tombe) A tree. Leaf $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, opposite, smooth. Small fruit on the stem itself.
- Timi-pofō (timi-pofoi) Another name for mambōi, not well known.
- Towa - nyenye (towa-nyenye) A tree used for forked house posts. (Towa = forked post.)
- Toya (toye) A tree. Leaves 6×2 inches, smooth, placed without order. Fruit red, hangs close to stem, like a small cherry in appearance and taste, edible.
- Tundu (tundui) or Kwuye (kwuyei) A tree. Leaf $8 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth, no veins. Fruit $\frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter, whitish, a follicle singly on its own stalk. (? *Cephaelis peduncularis* — *Rubiaceae*).
- Vaowu (vaowui) = ? Vao-wulu (vao-wului) A very big soft wood tree, trunk like a cotton tree, deciduous. Leaf oval, 4×3 inches, very rough, ribbed.
- Wonwa (wonwai) A tree (Kumasi and Monrovia). Leaves $8 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, pointed alternate.
- Yokuma (yokume) Another name for Saba-wulu, which see.
- Yungbi-yangbi (yungbi-yangbi) A tree. Leaf 9×6 inches, smooth, oval ribs branch in pairs from midrib. Fruit size of an apple, rough skin. It is eaten. The leaves bitter, make a purge.

The root produces abortion.
(? *Encephalates barteri*—
or *Sarcocephalus esculentus*—
Rubiaceae.)

SHRUBS

- Fande-wa (fande-wai) . Cotton, straw-coloured (*Gossypium*
sp.—*Malvaceae*).
- Ndulu-fande (ndulu-
fande) Cotton, red-brown. (Ndulu =
smoke.)
- Kwande (kwandi) . Cotton, white.
- Fōkulō - bafa (fōkulō -
bafai), or Fōkulō -
bafa - la (fōkulō -
bafa-lai), or Fuku-
bafa-la (fuku-bafa-
lai) A shrub. Leaves alternate, $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$
inches, lance-shaped, slightly
rough, will not lie flat. Veins
clearly defined. Flowers in
umbels, white, five lobes,
corolla 3 inches long, four
stamens $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, and
one pistil. Flower $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch
diameter.
- Gbakunje (gbakunje) or A shrub with leaves 6×4 inches
Njepai. growing horizontally, opposite.
Bears a bean. Used as a
purge and for ringworm.
- Gborohu (gborohu) . . A shrub (Monrovia). Leaf crenate.
- Gigbo (gigboi) . . . A shrub bearing a red edible fruit
called "baking fire" in Sierra
Leone English.
- Gimbu (gimbui) or A shrub. Leaves $2 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches,
Gimbu-lufi (gimbu-
lufi) lance-shaped, tender, alternate.
Flower axillary in panicles $\frac{1}{2}$
inch diameter, like a daisy
somewhat. Leaf crushed cures
ringworm in the head, hence
called "ta-hale," i.e. "skull-
medicine." Also juice dropped
into eye when bad. Aromatic
scent to it. (? *Compositae*.)
- Katata (katatei) . . . A climbing shrub (Monrovia and
Sekondi). Leaves branch at

- intervals in clusters. Leaf rough, 3 inches long, deeply veined. The stalks are rough enough to cut the skin.
- Katata-wa (katata-wai) *Lit.* Big katata. A climbing shrub or tree (Monrovia). Leaf similar in appearance to the foregoing, but much larger and smoother.
- Kōbōwa (kōbōwe) . . . Another name for Tejengbwe, but rare.
- Kpindi-yali (kpindi-yali) A thorny shrub with long climbing stems. Very troublesome in fallows. Leaf alternate, $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tender, retuse oval. (?*Mimosa pigra*—*Leguminosae*.)
- Kwandi See under Fande.
- Kata-wulu (kata-wulni) A shrub used for hedges, hence its name (kata = hedge, fence). Leaf ivy-shaped, 5×5 inches about. Flower very small, greenish inflorescence. Fruit a capsule $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, three black seeds inside. In Sierra Leone English "Pig - nuts," or "Physic nuts." Seeds contain much oil. (*Jatropha curcas*—*Euphorbiaceae*.)
- Kumo (kumōi) A shrub. Leaf lance-shaped, very pointed, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, whorled. Flower a much-branched cyme of minute monopetalous white flowers, with green calyx.
- Njala - mumu (njala - *Lit.* Little njala. A shrub. Leaf
mumui odd pinnate. Fruit
 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seed vessel, many grow
vertically together like a bunch
of bananas. Flower tiny,
monopetalous, irregular. The
shrub has a pleasant smell

(Conakry). (*Indigofera Suj-fructivosa*—*Leguminosae*.)

- Njalaihi (njalaihi) . . . A shrub. Leaf rough and well marked, 5×1 inches, usually three together on a stalk.
- Njepa (njepai) . . . See Gbakunje. Another name.
- Pegbia (Pegbie) . . . A shrub (Sch.).
- Popo-nda (popo-ndai) . A shrub. Leaf kidney-shaped, 7×6 inches, all veins radiate from leaf stalk. Flower a catkin, axillary. Fruit $2 \times \frac{1}{4}$ inches, light green dotted. Several stand up together from one stalk. The leaf is highly flavoured, and eagerly eaten raw. It is also used in cooking fish.
- Tejengbwe (tejengbwe) A shrub (Ashanti). Leaf $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches, hairy, opposite. Flower white with red bracts. Bracts $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Five petals, red centre, no scent. (*Mussaenda erythrophylla*—*Rubiaceae*.) Another variety has white bracts. (*Mussaenda Isertiana*, or *conopharyngiifolia*.)
- Tifa (tife) Shrub or plant in general.
- Tuwa-wu-buye (tuwa-wu-buye) A shrub. Leaves almost opposite, lance-shaped, 5×2 inches. Leaf stalk with nodule. Smooth, stiff. Fruit in a huge cluster with no leaves near. Four or five together on own short stalk. No suture, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter. One seed inside, with a covering which is sucked for the juice; no particular flavour.

PALMS, &c.

| | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| Tokpo (tokpoi) | . . . | Oil palm (<i>Elais guineensis</i> — <i>Palmae</i>). |
| Mawa (mawai) | . . . | An oil palm stripped of its branches with age. |
| Kpogo (kpogoi) | . . . | An oil palm with fronds growing vertically instead of with a spread. |

PARTS OF THE OIL PALM

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|---|
| Tōwu (tōwui) or Tewu (tewui) | } | Oil palm nut. |
| Tolu (tolui or toli) | | |
| Nini (nini) | . . . | The long flower stalks like a catkin. (<i>Lit.</i> Breast.) |
| Nini-ha (nini-hei) | . . . | Ditto. (Ha = female). |
| Tokpo-lō (tokpo-lōi) | . . . | Palm wine, the fermented juice of the tree. |
| Ngulo - gbou (ngulo-gboui) | . . . | Red oil from the outer part of the nut. |
| Dangulō (dangulōi) | . . . | Kernel oil. |
| Tolu-wulo (tolu-wuloi) | . . . | Ditto. |

| | | |
|----------------|-------|--|
| Nduvu (nduvui) | . . . | The piasaba palm (<i>Rafia vinifera</i> — <i>Palmae</i>). Produces fibre, palm wine, and the large fronds are much used for building purposes. |
|----------------|-------|--|

PARTS OF NDUVUI

| | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| Kaja (kaje) | . . . | The fibre of the Nduvu fronds called piassaba. |
| Kenji (kenji) | . . . | The seed of the Nduvu. Like a fir cone closed, 4 × 1 inches. They say the toucan swallows it whole. |
| Konu (konui) | . . . | The frond or branch. |

- Njasa (njasc) Thatch. The leaves of this palm are sewn together bent over two sticks, and so make mats 2×1 feet or more, which are laid on a roof like tiles. Njasa is also applied to other thatch.
-
- Kewe (kewe) Fan palm. Grows only in grass land. Bears large golden fruits in clusters on a single stalk. The stringy pericarp is used as a thirst quencher. (*Borassus flabelliformis*—*Palmae*.)
- Pu-lolu (pu-lolui) . . . *Lit.* Whiteman's nut. Cocoa-nut palm. (*Cocos nucifera*—*Palmae*.)
- Kavu (kavui) or Kavulu (kavului); A palm with very slender leaves and stem. The frond ends in a very long whip-like extension. (*Culamus barteri*—*Palmae*.)
- Pamba (pambe) Screw-pine. Grows usually in swamps. (*Pandanus candelabrum*—*Pandunaceae*.)
- Semi (semi) Bamboo. Grows in swamps. Called in Sierra Leone English a "cane." What is called "Bamboo" in Sierra Leone is the Nduvui. (*Bambusa vulgaris*—).
- Keni (keni) Bamboo. Corruption of "cane."
- Keri (keri) A bastard date palm, with sharp pointed leaves. Grows on edge of brackish water. Used for making mats. (*Phoenix reclinata* or *Phoenix spinosa*—*Palmae*.) Not a pure Mende word possibly.

CLIMBING PLANTS

- Bowi (bowi) A vine, ?rubber producing.
- Buli-yeyak_o (buli-yeyak_{oi}) or Tawabembe (tawabembe) or Yonibagbole (yoniba-gbole) A vine. Opposite leaves $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches on long stalk. Leaf is pounded and drunk in the early morning "for the belly." (Ngeyak_o = runner; bembe = encircle; gbole = drink).
- Dauwa (dauwe) A very big vine. Leaves opposite, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, smooth. Leaf stalk joins stem with a nodule. Four-sided bean 5 inches long, three big black seeds inside. (? *Duparquetia* sp.—*Leguminosae*.)
- Dawu (dawui) A vine. The leaves crushed, put into a pool, kill the fish. (In Temne "putukulu.")
- Fōkulō-bi (fōkulō-bi) A climber with a woody stem. Leaf 4×2 inches, stiff, smooth, lance-shaped. Axillary tendrils bearing leaves. Fruit yellow, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long in clusters, each with a short stem, kernel inside. The root is scraped and put into Nduvu wine to improve its strength. It is not apparently put into oil-palm wine.
- Fori (fori) A creeper with leaf like that of "kpuli."
- Gbōngeya (gbōngeyei) A thorny climber. Leaves 3×3 inches, smooth, all veins from base. Leaves far apart on separate stalks. ("Ngeyei" = rope.)
- Hoke-yuwō (hoke-yuwi) A climber. Leaf palmate, five leaflets 6 inches long. Flower a bell about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, mauve. Young leaves are

- mauve underneath. Pods contain a sort of small cotton.
- Homo-yeyako (homo-yeyako_i) . . . A climber. Leaf fig-style, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, each on a stalk of 3 inches. Leaves 3 inches apart. Used as rope.
- Jenje (jenje) . . . Juice from a rubber vine, not actually the vine itself.
- Julō (julō_i) and julō-lai . . . A climbing plant (Monrovia). Leaf round, 6×6 inches, rough.
- Kpula (kpule) . . . The creeper producing gourds or calabashes.
- Kiyuwō (kiyuwi) . . . A climber. Fruit a follicle, long, contains up to ten beans, brown, $1 \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch. Useless.
- Kolikpo (kolikpo_i) . . . A vine. Leaf palmately cleft with six or more leaflets. About 5×5 inches. Fruit yellow-red, size of a big egg-plum.
- Kpulu (kpuli) . . . A vine. Leaf heart-shaped, alternate, 7 inches diameter. All veins start from base. Fruit like a medium-sized potato hung from its centre, solid and whitish inside.
- Kpōkpō (kpōkpō_i) . . . A vine with edible leaves.
- Lelema (leleme) . . . A climbing plant. Leaves alternate, smooth, 6×1 inches, prehensile tip. Flower axillary on 6-inch flower-stalk, about 8 inches diameter. Six petals, six stamens and one three-pronged pistil. Flowers close backwards leaving organs outside. Petals narrow. New flowers yellow, old flowers red. No scent. (*Gloriosa virescens* — *Liliaceae*.)
- Mbalu (mbalui) . . . A creeper mostly found in fallows. Leaf 6×2 inches. Makes a good rope for building, &c.

50 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

Mole (moli) A twining plant which causes most painful itching of the skin. Leaves opposite, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, soft, oval, with lobe on each side of base. Tiny, green axillary flower, five petals. (? *Mucuna pruriensis*—*Leguminosae*.)

Mole-wa-wa (mole-wa-wai) } A bigger kind of Moli.

Nali (nali) A big forest vine. Leaf $5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, elongated tip, smooth in front, opposite. Young shoots very hairy, brown, and very soft. White juice used to catch birds. (? *Carpodinus* sp.—*Apocynaceae*.)

Ndambi (ndambi) . . A very big vine, very rough and angular. Leaves opposite, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inches. Leafy connection along stem. Tendrils near fruit. Fruit a red capsule $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, one seed.

Ndata - wulu (ndata-wului) A climbing plant. Infused is taken for rheumatism.

N g e n g e l e - t u m b a (ngengele-tumbe) Very big vine. Leaf stalks opposite at intervals. Leaves on leaf stalks opposite. Leaf $4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth.

Note.—See tree of same name; query one wrongly named.

Ndogbo-yuwō (ndogbo-yuwī) Blue convolvulus. (? *Ipomaea palmata*—*Convolvulaceae*.)

Ndōndōkō (ndōndōkōi) . A ground creeper growing from a tuberous root.

Ngeya-wulō (ngeya-wuloi) A creeper, leaves on slender stalk, alternate, smooth, $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inch. Makes an inferior "tie-tie" (rope).

Njala-wa (njala-wai) . A creeper. The indigo. Leaf $5 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth, oval,

acute point. More or less opposite leaves. Nodule at base of leaf stalk. Leaves crushed make the blue dye. (See njala - mumui among shrubs.)

- Nji-yuwō (nji-yuwi) . Creeper. Leaf 6×5 inches, fleshy.
- Njōwe (njōwi) . . . A creeper with a biggish bean used to kill head-lice. Not good to eat.
- Njōwe (njōwi) . . . The sweet potato (*Ipomaea batatas*—*Convolvulaceae*). Also applied to the European potato.
- Pōla (pōlai) or Pōwele (pōwele) A climbing plant. Leaf 6×2 inches, smooth, alternate. Fruit $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter, pyramidal, spiky, a capsule. It is eaten. The plant itself is a cane.
- Tambe (tambi) . . . A creeper something like Mbalui. Not found at Sekondi.
- Tanya (tanye) . . . A creeper. Leaves $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{8}$ inch, close at night. Thorny stem.
- Tauwa (tauwai) . . . A creeper. Leaf $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, palmately lobed, tender. Along the ribs it is a paler green.
- Tawa-bembe . . . See Buli-yeyakoi.
- Tegeya (tegeyei) . . . A creeper. Leaf fig-pattern. Flower yellow, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, five petals joined at base. Fruit up to 9 inches long is fibrous inside, and is used for washing with. (*Luffa cylindrica*—*Cucurbitaceae*.)
- Tifa (tife) . . . Shrub or plant in general.
- Tōwa (tōwe) . . . Pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*—*Cucurbitaceae*).
- Yoniba-gboli . . . See Buli-yeyakoi.

PLANTS

- Belu (belui) Pine-apple. (Rarely used. See Nesi.)
- Bondo (bonde) A plant. Leaf $6 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, ivy shape, inclines to red at edge. Rough indented edge. Fruit green, 5 inches long, succulent. The Okro. (*Hibiscus esculentus*—*Malvaceae*.)
- Bowa-la (bowa-lai) . . See Njopo-bowa.
- Delema (deleme) . . . A name apparently given to any plant with a big spike or raceme.
- Duma (dume) A plant or shrub. Leaf 18×4 inches, very like Kasilo-duboli (which see), but a little stiffer.
- Fale (fale) Fungus, mushroom.
- Tokpo-fale A mushroom that grows on the roots of oil palm.
- Fore (fore) Canna lily (*Canna indica*—*Cannaceae*).
- Gbanenye (gbanenye) . A plant. Leaf soft, 3 to 4×2 inches, rough surface, lighter green on back. Leaf stalks in pairs. Fruit axillary like a small Kojōi, about half inch diameter, reddish-yellow, edible.
- Gbole (gbole) Plant. Leaf 10×5 to 3 inches. Edge deeply indented. Thorns on stem. Fruit white, egg size. A garden egg of a different variety from Kojōi.
- Gboni-kjō (gboni-kjōi) A plant. Leaf 5×4 inches, indented like Kojōi, but thicker. Downy. Fruit 4×2 inches diameter. Edible.
- Hagba (hagbe) A plant. Leaf 21×16 inches, smooth, very tough. Grows

- on a single tall stalk 4 feet high.
- Hakpa (hakpe) . . . Any plant used for food. Usually in plural.
- Hale-lifa (hale-life) . . Any plant used for medicine. (Hale = medicine ; tifa (lifa) = plant.)
- Hausa-bowa (hausabowe) *Lit.* The Hausas' flower. A fancy name given by the Mendes. Not in the Mende country. A plant that spreads on the ground chiefly on the road, with troublesome prickly "flowers" which stick into the feet. (? *Compositae*.)
- Hegu (hegui) A reed in swamps. About 3 feet high. Tall hollow single stalk with a rusty cluster of seed stalks at head.
- Helō (helōi) A plant. Leaf $1 \times \frac{1}{8}$ inch, serrated edge. Tiny yellow flowers.
- Hondi (hondi) . . . A tall reddish plant with seeds in a flowering head like millet, but small. Leaf $2 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches, ribs red. Used in making soup. Sierra Leone English—"plassass," but plassass may be any edible plant.
- Howo (howi) or Howa (howe) . . . A plant or reed. Leaves 8×3 inches, stiff, smooth. Flower head a cluster of white flowers, but sometimes yellow ; scentless, like fox-glove. Plant in appearance like the Guinea-grain. When people die it is laid under them. When twins are born it is laid by an ant-hill (kokoi). (? *Costus sp.*)
- Kanda (kande) . . . The bitter cassava. Digitate leaves, and in appearance much like Tange. The roots are poison-

- ous when raw, and must be cooked before being eaten. (*Manihot utilissima*—*Euphorbiaceae*.)
- Kasilo-duboli (kasilo-duboli) or Kasilo-boli (kasilo-boli) . . . A plant. Leaf 14×5 inches, one straight mid-rib, stalks hairy. (Kasilo-silo = spider; boli = drink.)
- Kibone (kibone) . . . A plant, consisting of one long juicy stem. Leaf $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch, tender. Leaves join together along stem. They have an unpleasant smell. (*Anchomanes arum*.)
- Kimba (kimbe) . . . A plant eaten on rice. Leaves opposite, soft, 2×1 inches.
- Kimba-wili (kimba-wili) or Kimba-yi-wili . . . A plant. Leaf 4×3 inches or larger, tender, jagged edge. Stalk five-angled, hollow. A tiny yellow flower, bell-shaped, five-pointed, brown, centre, axillary.
- Kipō (kipōi) . . . A succulent edible plant. Leaf 6 inches long, wings at base, hairy. New leaves axillary to old ones. This name is also applied to a sort of wild lettuce, edible, of probably foreign origin.
- Kojō (kōji or kojōi) . . The egg-plant. In Sierra Leone English the Jackatoo. Leaf 10×7 inches, rough edge with deep indentations, seven in number. Fruit yellow, as big as an apple, edible, called the "garden-egg."
- Koko (kokoi) . . . An edible tuber—the Coco-yam. It is of a bluish tinge inside. Thick fleshy stalks with single large leaves springing direct from the root. (*Colocasia*.)

- Koli-ne (koli-nei) . . . *Lit.* Leopard's tongue. A plant, thorny on stalks and leaves. Leaves, some five-parted 2 inches each way, some ivy-shaped, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch each way. Leaves and flowers sprout together, at regular intervals. Flower has red cone in centre 1 inch long, yellow to red tip surrounded by a fringe of 1-inch bracts. One flower on each stalk.
- Kpāma (kpāme) . . . A spinach with a little red flower. Leaf $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- Kpiti - powa (kpiti - powe) } A herb to kill head lice.
- Kpa-yuka (kpa-yukei) . A plant after the style of Guinea grain (Monrovia). Fruit orange-coloured, grows sometimes in pairs, sometimes singly, on top of the stalk. Pod fleshy, with black seeds inside, just like Guinea grain. Animals eat it, but not human beings.
- Kporon-la (kporon-lai). A plant. Leaf 4×3 inches, thick, rough, serrated edge, each on own leaf stalk. Flowers axillary, small, yellow, in clusters arranged at regular intervals up the stem.
- Kpulu-la (kpulu-lai) . A plant. Fleshy, opposite leaves, with zig-zag edge which is red. Leaf 2 to 3 inches long or more. The flower stalks grow from root separate. The monopetalous flowers, 1 inch long, contain air and pop when squeezed. (*Bryophyllum calycinum* — *crassulaceae*.) The plucked leaf will sprout of itself.

- Kōnde (kōndi) . . . A small kind of plantain or banana (*Musaceae*).
- Kule-la (kule-lai) or Puta-pute . . . A plant (Kumasi). Leaves 19×4 inches, serrated edge, opposite. Flowers small, blue, branching opposite from a long head. A person sits in the steam of an infusion of leaves to bring out perspiration. Also used as a poultice "if your foot hurts."
- Makpa (makpai) . . . A plant. Axillary branches irregularly placed. Leaf obtuse, pointed, lance-shaped, $3 \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches, rough, deeply veined, sickly smell. Flower monopetalous, irregular, bell-shaped, mauve to white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, axillary. Fruit a four-sided capsule, small black seeds inside.
- Mana (mane) . . . The plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*—*Musaceae*).
- Mande (mande) . . . A plant used as spinach. Kills lice in women's hair if smeared on.
- Mbōle (mbōle) . . . Yam. A cultivated twining plant with large edible root. The cultivated variety. (*Dioscorea sativa*—*Dioscoreaceae*.)
- Nana (nane) . . . A herb with poisonous prickles.
- Nande (nande) . . . The Okra not full grown.
- Ndogbo-wili (ndogbo-wili) . . . A thistle. Leaves opposite, pinately parted, thorny. Eaten with rice. Connected with witchcraft. (Monrovia.)
- Nesi (nesi) . . . Pine-apple.
- Ngauwu (ngauwi) . . . A wild yam. Leaves in pairs, heart-shaped, $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, smooth. Catkins. Monocot. (? *Dioscorea prehensilis*—*Dioscoreaceae*.)

- Ngengele (ngengele) . Crinere. A plant, red stalk. Leaf
 $1 \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch, alternate, serrated
 edge. Seed pods stand ver-
 tical, 3 inches long.
- Ngōgbe (ngōgbe) . . A common small plant. Leaf
 smells like a blackberry.
 Leaves 2×1 inches, serrated
 edge, deeply veined, opposite.
 New leaves sprout axillary
 and transversely. Small
 thistle-like flower at head,
 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, pale blue. Leaves
 crushed in water make an
 emetic. (*Ageratum conyzoides*
 —*Compositae*.)
- Ngōrō - bonu (ngōrō -
 boni) A plant with leaf and pod similar
 to Poni, the Guinea-grain.
 (Sch.)
- Njopo - bowa (njopo -
 bowe) or Bowa-la
 (bowa-lai) A plant with long sword-like leaf,
 2 feet long, ribbed down
 full length. When dry it
 shrivels up. (Njopo = fallow,
 or abandoned farm ; mbowa =
 knife.)
- Nguwo-tanga (nguwo-
 tange) } A kind of bitter cassava (Sch.).
- Nikile (nikili) . . . The ground nut. Leaf 4-pinnate,
 leaflets oval, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long.
 The nuts attach to the roots.
 Small yellow papilionaceous
 flower. (*Arachis hypogaea*—
Leguminosae.)
- Ninga (ninge) . . . Some plant that grows in water.
- Pegele (pegeli) . . . A very tall herb used medicinally.
- Peli (peli) . . . Egg-plant (Sch). See Kōji (? cor-
 rect).
- Poni (poni) . . . A plant growing to height of 4 feet.
 Leaf lance-shaped. The red
 pod at the root, just above
 ground, contains brown seeds
 in a white fleshy covering.

These seeds are the Guinea grains or Grains of Paradise. (*Aframomum melegueta*—Zingiberaceae.)

- Puje (puje) Pepper, a capsicum (*Solanaceae*), not the pepper tree. There are two species well known. One has large fruit, the other very small, about $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{16}$ inch diameter. Red when ripe.
- Putá-puté (putá-puté) . See Kule-lai.
- Sandi-yombe (sandi-yombe) or Sandi-yi-ngombe A plant. Ground creeper. Leaf 2×1 inches. Flower like a sweet-pea, no smell. ? Correctly named.
- Sandō (sandōi) or Satō (satōi) A plant. Leaves and fruit branch together. Leaf palmate, three parted, each leaflet 3×1 inches, soft, ribs almost in pairs.
- Sawa-wa (sawa-wai) . Lit. The big sawa. Plant. Leaf smooth, $1 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch. Flower-head 6 inches long, very small yellow flowers. Leaves pounded and scattered in the air are said to ensure a good rice harvest.
- Sele (sele) Banana (*Musaceae*).
- Sembe-kpema (sembe-kpeme) A plant. Leaves fold at night. Leaf-stalks alternate, leaves fraction of an inch in size. Hollow stalk. Flower half-inch, at end of leaf stalk, flat sideways, white with yellow tip.
- Su-bondo (su-bonde) . ? A plant at all. A "medicine" against thorns.
- Tanga (tange) . . . Cassava. The sweet variety. The roots may be eaten raw. Digitate leaves. Stem 6 feet high or more, brown, notched. (*Manihot palmata*—*Euphorbiaceae*.)

- Tawa (tawe) Tobacco.
- Tawa-vuka (tawa-vuke) *Lit.* Tobacco-ground. Snuff.
- Ta-hondi (ta-hondi) . A plant. Axillary thorns. Leaf lance-shaped, soft, clearly veined, 2×1 inches. Flower a catkin.
- Tegowe (tegowe) . . . A plant, squared stem, leaf about 1 inch. Small white flowers each on its own stalk. (*Cf. Labiatae.*)
- Teyu - gbōme (teyu - gbōme) A plant. Hairy leaves, alternate, lanceolate, $3 \times \frac{1}{2}$ inches. Small flower, papilionaceous, blue at big end, gray at small. Yellow pistil and stamens. Leafy bract holding water. Monocot.
- Tifa (tife) Shrub or plant in general.
- Tola (tole) or towa }
(towe) } A bean, any kind.
- Toga (toge) A sort of crassula with small leaves.
- Tonye (tonye) . . . A plant. Will climb. Leaf rough, lance-shaped, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ inches, opposite. Flowers axillary, like a sunflower about 1 inch in diameter. (*Coreopsis guineensis—Compositae.*)
- Tō-ngoni (tō-ngoni) . . A plant used as tobacco. Not at Sekondi. Mende country.
- Yawa (yawe) Onion (*Allium sp.—Liliaceae*).
- Yombe (yombe) or Ngombe (ngombe) A plant. Leaf heart-shaped, about $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches. Flower like a buttercup. Seeds small, red, with black heads, grow in a cluster of pods, one in each pod.
- Vonde (vonde) . . . A tobacco plant. The juice is drawn up the nose for snuff.

WATER PLANTS

- Dena (dene) . . . ? a kind of water-lily (Sch). From own information a tree, but not described.
- Nengbe (nengbe) or nja-nengbe . . . A water-lily. Leaf round kidney shape which floats on the water. Flower six greenish bracts, nine petals. Petals $1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{3}$ inch, cluster of yellow stamens, &c. (*Nymphaea lotus*—*Nymphaeaceae*.)
- Nomi (nōmi) . . . A green sedge in fresh water. Also moss. Also applied to green sea-weed on the rocks.
- Nja-gboji (nja-gbōji) . . . A water-lily. Leaves 2 feet \times 2 inches, smooth. Flowers white, star-like. Big white bulb. (*Hymenocallis littoralis*—*Amaryllidaceae*.) Also called Pupende.
- Pupende (pupende) . . . A water-lily. Leaf 3 feet \times 2 inches, with strong tendency to fold in two, which the foregoing has not. Flower cup-shaped, 6 petals, no sepals, 6 stamens, 1 pistil. Petals white with red stripe down centre of back. (*Crinum natans*—*Amaryllidaceae*.)

FERNS

- Buhe (buhe) . . . Bracken (*Pteris aquilina*—*Filices*).
- Demo (demoi) . . . A mossy climbing fern (Monrovia).
- Kōtō (kōtōi) . . . The staghorn fern. Usually seen high up on big trees, or on fan palms before they have stripped their fronds with old age. (*Platyserium aethiopicum*—*Filices*.)

- Kuyo (kuyi) A ground fern with compound leaf.
 Yulō (yuli) A climbing maidenhair fern. Leaf
 oblong, 1 inch, with serrated
 edge, alternate on own leaf
 stalk. (? *Gleichenia dichotoma*
 —*Filices.*)

GRASSES

- Fōni (fōni) A coarse grass. Applied generally
 to the grass land as opposed
 to forest.
 Fōvō (fōvōi), or Ngongō
 (ngongōi) A tall grass, up to 5 feet, but
 smaller than Ngare, which see.
 Gbeli-nyō (gbeli-nyōi) Guinea-corn (*Sorghum vulgare*—
 Gramineae). *Lit.* Shake-corn.
 Jewe (jewei) A rough cutting grass, climbs.
 Leaves alternate, about 6
 inches long.
 Kete (keti) Millet.
 Kōtō-pōwa (kōtō-pōwe) A grass with head like oats. Birds
 eat the seeds. The stem is
 hollow, and is used for sucking
 liquids through. Leaf $3 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$
 inches, pointed.
 Kpale-giti (kpale-giti) A grass. Seed stalks in threes or
 fours.
 Leti (leti) A grass.
 Meji (meji) A local name for Fōni.
 Ngara (ngare) A very tall, coarse grass. Elephant
 grass.
 Ngongō (ngongōi) See Fōvōi.
 Njawa (njawai), or Nja-
 wa-wai A rough cutting grass. Grows 2
 feet or more. Seed heads in
 clusters in centre, thence leaves
 up to 1 foot long branch out
 star-like, three in number, with
 a short intermediate leaf be-
 tween each.
 Nyō (nyōi) Maize (*Zea mays*).

62 NATURAL HISTORY VOCABULARY

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nyōko (nyōkoi) . . . | Sugar-cane (<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> — <i>Gramineae</i>). |
| Pisu (pisui) | A swamp grass with long trailing stalks. Something like "dube" or Bahama grass. Grows in brackish water. Name doubtful. |
| Pote (pote) | A grass, the seeds of which are eaten. |
| Yani (yani) | A soft spreading grass. |
| Yuyavi (yuyavi) . . . | A rough grass. Leaf 12 inches or more by 1 inch. Leaves grow separately from stem. Clinging flower seeds, 1 inch long, which are used to catch rats. |

NAMES AND VARIETIES OF RICE

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mba (mbai) | Rice generally (<i>Oryza</i>). |
| Mba-gala (Mba-gale) . | Seed or grain of rice. |
| Mba-wu (mba-wui) . . | Ear of rice. |
| Bongo (bongoi) . . . | Red. Short, thick grain. Planted in mud. |
| Fase (fase) | Tasteless. Grows slowly. Name not confirmed. |
| Gete (gete) | Red. Short-grained. |
| Gobe (gobe) | ? American by origin. Grows in water. |
| Goro-feli (Goro-feli) . | Red. Long-haired. |
| Jobo (jōboi) | ? A bluish rice. Long grain. Fine flavour. |
| Kokovaiya (kokovaiye) | Red. Several heads to one stalk. Grows anywhere. |
| Meka (meke) | Red. Slow growing. |
| Marra (marrai) . . . | Black. A commonly grown rice. |
| Manika (manikei) . . | Red. Long grain. |
| Nja-kundō (nja-kundi) | Red. |
| Pava (pave) | Tasteless. Grows slowly. Name not confirmed. |
| Pende (pende) . . . | Black. Early rice. Short. |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Pendege (pendege) . . . | Black. Early rice. Short. |
| Sana (sanai) | Red. |
| Sanganya (sanganye) . | Red. Ripens slowly. |
| Sandi (sandi) | Tasteless. Grows slowly. Name not confirmed. |
| Tupu-bongo (tupu-bon- goi) | Strongly striped or marked. (Tupui = puff-adder.) |
| Wuja-wuru (wuja-wurui) | Red. Small grain. Grows quickly. |
| Yele (yele) | Requires cutting quickly after ripening. Not a specific name. |
| Yake (yake) | ? American by origin. White. Grows in water. |

ORCHIDS (EPIPHYTIC)

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Bembe (bembe) . . . | A creeping orchid. Leaves 18×3 inches. Flower a long, swaying raceme, white star-like flowers. Fruit very like a mistletoe berry. When it has fallen off, the long dry streamers are left hanging down. Leaves emerge as from a nest. (? <i>Litrostachys caulata</i> — <i>Orchidaceae</i> .) |
| Baka-yeya (baka-yeyei) | A creeping orchid. Fleshy leaves, 5×1 inches, alternate. Long, creeping roots. Said to have a green flower. (<i>Angraecum eichlerianum</i> — <i>Orchidaceae</i> .) |
| Ngongolō (ngongoli) . | An orchid growing out of a hole in a branch of any tree. Leaf $3 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, like an orange leaf, but without lower extension. Leaves semi-transparent, veins inside body of leaf smooth, alternate. Flowers 1 inch long, stand erect on circular disc $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter, reddish when full blown. They |

are closed at end with small green knob. Fruit a small, red, downy berry, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter, juice red; hangs from branch by small twig. (*Loranthus belvisii*—*Loranthaceae*.)

Note.—The author failed to get the names of any ground orchids.



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